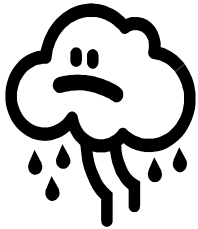


Department of Human Services

Articles in Today's Clips Thursday, November 16, 2006

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Prepared by the
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Apologetic Holland gets 30-60 years

Judge nearly sobs in scolding Ricky's killer

BY JACK KRESNAK
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

November 16, 2006

LANSING -- Before taking the punishment he knew was coming, convicted child killer Tim Holland apologized and asked forgiveness Wednesday for his role in the gruesome death last year of his 7-year-old son Ricky.

"I stand here today to say I'm sorry for what I did and ask that this community, my family, and most of all my son find it in their hearts to forgive me one day," he told Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield moments before she sent him to prison for 30 to 60 years.

"I failed my son, failed as a father and failed as a human being when I did not stop my wife from abusing my son," Holland said.

Reading from a hand-printed statement, he blamed his wife for fatally injuring Ricky but said he took responsibility and was ready for punishment.

"Those consequences are not limited to just prison," Tim Holland said. "My life is over, my reputation is gone, my family looks at me different, and I've lost my children."

Manderfield, who exceeded the sentencing guidelines by several years, scolded Holland, 37, for standing by while his wife abused Ricky.

"You knew he was being tortured, and you did nothing," Manderfield said. She noted that Tim Holland failed to seek medical attention for the dying child and participated in a six-month cover-up after his wife fatally injured Ricky with a blow from a small hammer in June 2005.

Manderfield choked back a sob as she recounted how Tim Holland wrapped Ricky's body in garbage bags and dumped it in a swamp.

"I believe you are just as guilty for Ricky's death as Lisa Holland," the judge said.

Partly due to Tim Holland's testimony, a jury last month convicted his 33-year-old wife of first-degree felony murder and first-degree child abuse. She is to be sentenced Nov. 28 to spend the rest of her life in prison with no possibility of parole. Tim Holland would be eligible for parole in 30 years.

Tim Holland said he came home June 24, 2005, to find Ricky standing zombie-like and nearly naked next to a blood-splattered wall. The boy died in bed July 1.

Contact **JACK KRESNAK** at 313- 223-4544 or jkresnak@freepress.com



Tim Holland takes responsibility for his 7-year-old son's death, blaming himself for not helping the abused boy.

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November 16, 2006

Ricky's dad gets 30-60 years

Judge exceeds state guidelines in sentencing Holland for his adopted son's 2005 murder.

Karen Bouffard / The Detroit News

LANSING -- Tim Holland wept and claimed his "life is over" Wednesday when he was sentenced to 30 to 60 years for the murder of his adopted son Ricky, whose body he wrapped in plastic bags and dumped in a swamp.

Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield exceeded sentencing guidelines for Holland, 37, of Williamston, a former counterintelligence analyst for the Army. He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in September, and his testimony helped convict his wife, Lisa, of felony murder and child abuse last month in the July 2005 death.

He could have received 14 to 22 1/2 years, but the child's biological father said only the death penalty -- not an option in Michigan -- could possibly atone for Ricky's death.

"That's not justice," Ricky Baxter Gann told The Detroit News from his home in California's San Bernardino County.

"He was a coward ... I think he should be fried."

Holland wept uncontrollably as he threw himself at Manderfield's mercy, reminding her that his mother had died when he was 7 years old.

"I failed my son, I failed as a father and I failed as a human being," said Holland, reading from a letter he wrote to Manderfield. "That choice will haunt me for the rest of my life."

Manderfield had none of it.

"You are educated, you are worldly, you did counterintelligence and surveillance," Manderfield said. "You knew how Ricky was being mistreated and abused in that household; you knew exactly what was going on and you could have saved Ricky's life."

Manderfield lost her composure briefly as she tallied Ricky's suffering. Prosecutors theorized the child died of head injuries after Lisa struck him in the head with a hammer. Tim Holland testified that Ricky languished for more than a week before he died.

The two claimed the child ran away before Tim Holland led authorities to his body in January.

"I believe you are just as guilty for Ricky's death as Lisa," Manderfield said.

Ricky's biological mother, Casey Caswell, attended the sentencing. Speaking outside the courtroom, she claimed the state Department of Human Services is responsible for the murder.

"He was a very happy boy," said Caswell. "The (state) took him from some place where he was alive and healthy, to some place where he was wasting away."

Ricky lived with his parents in California until he was about 3. But Caswell brought him to Michigan, where she grew up, after Gann was convicted of drug trafficking. He is now free.

Homeless and unemployed, Caswell asked state workers to place Ricky in foster care. Caswell and Gann each tried to reclaim the child, but a Jackson County judge ruled neither could adequately care for him, and terminated their parental rights.

Marianne Udow, director of the Michigan Department of Human Services, issued a statement Wednesday calling Tim and Lisa Holland "terribly and fatally cruel" and "deceptive."

Lisa Holland's sentencing is Nov. 28. By state law, she will serve life without parole.

You can reach Karen Bouffard at (734) 462-2206 or kbouffard@detnews.com.

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Published November 16, 2006

SENTENCED: Ricky's dad gets 30 to 60 years

Judge goes beyond minimum guidelines for Tim Holland

By Kevin Grasha
Lansing State Journal

For years, Tim Holland allowed his wife to abuse their 7-year-old adopted son.

And in the last week of the boy's life, as a dehydrated Ricky slowly died from a head wound, he did nothing.

On Wednesday, Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield sent Holland to prison for 30 to 60 years for his role in Ricky's death. The 37-year-old Williamston man - who pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in early September - will not be eligible for parole until he is 67.

"You knew exactly what was going on in that home, and you could have saved Ricky Holland's life," Manderfield told Holland as he stood facing her, flanked by his attorneys, Frank Reynolds and Scott Mertens.

Manderfield, going beyond the minimum punishment of 13 1/2 to 22 years set by sentencing guidelines, told Holland: "You knew he was being tortured, and you did nothing.

"You did nothing," she said again, holding back tears.

Reading from a handwritten statement, Holland asked for forgiveness, saying he failed as a father and as a human being - and



(Photo by BECKY SHINK/Lansing State Journal)
Holland breaks down: Tim Holland becomes emotional while waiting for his sentencing Wednesday. Holland's attorney, Scott Mertens, stood at his side. Judge Paula Manderfield told Holland: "You knew exactly what was going on in that home, and you could have saved Ricky Holland's life."

Tim Holland's statement

Here are excerpts from Tim Holland's statement, read during his sentencing hearing before Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield:

- "What I did was wrong. I failed my son, failed as a father, and failed as a human being."
- "Ricky is safe in the hands of God, where he can no longer suffer at Lisa's hands. My role was just as bad because I allowed the abuse to go on and did nothing to stop it."
- "My reputation is gone, my family looks at me (differently), and I've lost my children."

Appeal expected

Tim Holland's co-counsel, Frank Reynolds, said his client will appeal the sentence handed down Wednesday.

Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield sentenced Holland to a minimum of 30 years in prison, although sentencing guidelines called for a minimum of 13 1/2 to 22 years.

A judge must have "a substantial and compelling reason" to depart from the guidelines, Reynolds said.

Sentencing guidelines are set by many different factors, including the seriousness of the offense, motive and intent.

What's next

that he also failed his son.

"I would gladly exchange my life for his in a heartbeat," Holland said, with his mother, Arcie, and three sisters looking on.

He later added: "My life is over."

- Lisa Holland, who was convicted last month of first-degree felony murder and first-degree child abuse, will be sentenced Nov. 28 to life in prison without the possibility of parole, the mandatory punishment under Michigan law.

Media files:

- [Tim Holland's handwritten statement read before sentencing \(11.15.06\) - pdf](#)

Wife to be sentenced

Tim Holland reported Ricky missing July 2, 2005, setting off a massive search. In January of this year, he led police to the 7-year-old's body, which he had placed in garbage bags and dumped in a rural, marshlike area near Dansville.

Ricky lived the last week of his life in a near-comatose state with a severe head wound that eventually killed him.

Tim Holland testified he didn't take Ricky to the hospital for the head injury - caused when Lisa struck the boy in the head with a hammer, according to testimony - because he was trying to protect her from prosecution.

Assistant Prosecutor Mike Ferency said in court Wednesday that Tim Holland failed "to provide medical assistance during the last days of Ricky Holland's life" and shared responsibility with his wife.

Lisa Holland, 33, will be sentenced later this month to life in prison for killing Ricky. An Ingham County jury earlier this month convicted her of first-degree felony murder and first-degree child abuse.

Sentences in murder trials usually fall within the guidelines, Ingham County Prosecutor Stuart Dunnings III said. But this case was far from typical.

"I don't think anybody could sit down and contemplate a situation like this," he said, adding that he expects the sentence to be upheld on appeal.

'He did step up'

Tim Holland was key to solving the case, attorney Frank Reynolds said Wednesday during the sentencing. More than six months after reporting Ricky missing, he led authorities to Ricky's remains.

"To Mr. Holland's credit, he did step up," Reynolds said, adding that Holland also accepted responsibility by pleading guilty.

Reynolds argued that until his client's involvement with Lisa Holland, he had been a productive citizen. He had worked for the Jackson County Friend of the Court from 1998 through 2001. He later became an Army counterintelligence specialist.

Reynolds read from a letter written by Holland's supervisor during the time he was a warrant officer for the Jackson County Friend of the Court.

"Lisa had some unusual hold on him that simply overwhelmed common sense," the letter said. "It was clear ... this was a very abnormal relationship, and one that would end in tragedy."

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Judge says Holland allowed torture, sentences him to 30-60 years

LANSING, Mich. -- Tim Holland had testified that his 7-year-old adopted son Ricky was nearly comatose after being struck with a hammer _ unable to talk, walk, drink or eat in the week before he died.

But despite the injury inflicted by his wife, Holland never took the boy to the hospital, even though he had his own sprained ankle treated by a doctor the same week.

"You knew he was being tortured, and you did nothing. You did nothing," Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield told Holland on Wednesday before sentencing him to 30 to 60 years in prison.

Holland, a former Army intelligence analyst, cut a deal with prosecutors in September, agreeing to plead guilty to second-degree murder and testify against his wife, Lisa Holland, so he could avoid a life sentence.

"My life is over. My honor has been waylaid. My reputation is gone," a tearful Tim Holland said during an emotional sentencing hearing that also caused Manderfield to tear up.

Tim Holland, 37, said he failed his son Ricky and wished he could trade places with him.

"I cannot undo what has been done," he said, saying Ricky's "horrific" death would haunt him for the rest of his life. "I'm sorry for what I did."

Manderfield departed from sentencing guidelines that called for a minimum of 13 1/2 to 22 1/2 years and instead imposed a minimum of 30 years in prison. Tim Holland's attorneys plan to appeal the sentence and said the judge's reasons for increasing the sentence already were scored in the guidelines.

A jury found Lisa Holland, 33, guilty last month of first-degree felony murder. Prosecutors said she struck the boy in the head with a hammer and both she and her husband failed to seek help as he slowly died of his injury.

Lisa Holland faces a mandatory life sentence without parole at a hearing scheduled for Nov. 28.

Ricky vanished from his Williamston home 15 miles east of Lansing on July 1, 2005. His parents told searchers and the media that he had run away.

But in late January, Tim Holland led authorities to Ricky's body in a game area after telling them his wife struck the boy with a hammer. Tim Holland said he only helped dispose of the body.

Defense attorneys argued Wednesday that Tim Holland's cooperation with authorities helped end a case that otherwise might have gone unresolved, and they urged the judge to impose a lighter sentence.

"To Mr. Holland's credit, he did step up," Frank Reynolds said.

But Manderfield recalled that at Lisa Holland's trial, Tim Holland testified about how the boy was listless in the last week of his life _ smelling like urine. She also recounted Tim Holland's testimony that he did not take Ricky to the hospital or report the long-standing abuse because he wanted to protect his family and avoid jail time.

"But you didn't protect Ricky. Wasn't he a part of your family?" Manderfield asked. "You are just as guilty for Ricky's death as Lisa Holland."

Ingham County Prosecutor Stuart Dunnings III said his office did not seek a life sentence

because it would have made Tim Holland eligible for parole in 15 years. Now he cannot seek parole for 30 years, Dunnings said.

The Hollands became Ricky's foster parents in 2000 and adopted him in 2003, the year after the parental rights of his biological parents were terminated because of neglect. The couple also adopted Ricky's three younger siblings and had a child of their own.

The case has led to scrutiny of the state's child protection system and whether workers did enough to protect Ricky and his siblings.

Ricky's biological mother, Casey Caswell, attended Wednesday's sentencing. Caswell, who wanted Ricky put into foster care because she was homeless and jobless in 2000, told reporters that state officials should have done a more thorough background check on Lisa Holland.

"I went to them for help, and they never helped," she said.

David Eggert can be reached at [deggert\(at\)ap.org](mailto:deggert(at)ap.org)

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Published November 16, 2006

SENTENCED: Daniel given 5-15 years in death of son Jalyn

Lansing woman won't be eligible for parole for five years

By Susan Vela
Lansing State Journal

Before being sent to prison for up to 15 years, Cynthia Daniel blew a kiss to friends gathered in the courtroom.

Then her poise unraveled.

Daniel, 31, sobbed Wednesday as she was sentenced to serve five to 15 years for involuntary manslaughter and child abuse.

Her 2-year-old son, Jalyn, died in May 2005 after being burned and having his bones crushed in Daniel's south Lansing home.

Samuel Courtland, Daniel's former live-in boyfriend, has been convicted of murdering the child.

He will be sentenced Dec. 13.

"I have to live with that for the rest of my life," said Daniel, standing before Ingham County Circuit Judge Beverley Nettles-Nickerson in slippers, tube socks and a yellow jail outfit. "I just want to say that I'm sorry."

Nettles-Nickerson sentenced Daniel to 71 months to 15 years for involuntary manslaughter and 23 months to 48 months for child abuse. The terms will be served concurrently.

Daniel originally was charged with murder in her son's death. As part of a plea deal, she pleaded guilty to lesser charges and agreed to testify against Courtland.

Her attorney, Eric Tomal, told the judge that Daniel must live with the guilt of her son's death.

"She was his mother," prosecutor Lisa McCormick responded. "She was supposed to protect him,



(Photo by BECKY SHINK/Lansing State Journal)
Courtroom tears: Cynthia Daniel cries during her sentencing Wednesday, as attorney Eric Tomal looks on. Daniel was sentenced to serve five to 15 years in the death of her 2-year-old son. A former live-in boyfriend has been convicted of murdering the child.

What's next

- Cynthia Daniel, 31, will spend at least five years in prison before she gets the opportunity for parole. She was sentenced Wednesday for her role in the May 2005 death of her 2-year-old son, Jalyn.
- Her former live-in boyfriend, Samuel Courtland, 32, will be sentenced to life in prison without parole next month for murdering and abusing Jalyn and abusing Jalyn's 8-year-old brother.

nurture him, care for him.

"Instead, she did nothing but get high and watch that child die."

While testifying last week during Courtland's trial, Daniel told a jury they smoked marijuana and hosted friends at their home while Jalyn lay dying.

"I find that appalling," Nettles-Nickerson said Wednesday.

"You don't have the right to stand up here crying."

A jury found Courtland, 32, guilty of murder and child abuse for his treatment of Jalyn.

He also was convicted of abusing Jalyn's 8-year-old brother.

Courtland will be sentenced next month to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

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Article published Nov 14, 2006

BREAKING NEWS: Prosecution rests in murder trial

The prosecution rested its case this afternoon in the murder trial of Sonya Moussaed, the Monroe woman accused of beating a toddler to death.

Immediately after the last witness for the prosecution was called, the defense team headed by Monroe attorney Lawrence Coogan began calling character witnesses, including Ms. Moussaed's mother and the father of her son.

Janet Moring testified that she never saw her daughter mistreat Gracie Simmons, who was the daughter of Ms. Moussaed's former boyfriend.

"She took to Gracie like she was her own," Ms. Moring said during the second day of the trial. "She was very protective. I never saw her discipline Gracie."

Joseph Flahie, 28, who fathered a son, J.J., with Ms. Moussaed, testified that Ms. Moussaed would never harm a child and that she was an excellent mother.

"I couldn't ask for a better mother for my son," he told the jury. "She always gave everything she had to being a mother. She is not capable of harming any person, especially a child. It's not possible."

But Monroe County Assistant Prosecutor Allison Arnold presented a vastly different view of Ms. Moussaed. Ms. Arnold is trying to prove that Ms. Moussaed brutally beat the 17-month-old girl, who died April 20.

Ms. Arnold's final witness was Dr. Randall Schlievert, a University of Toledo Hospital pediatrician and child abuse expert. During his 90 minutes of testimony, Dr. Schlievert said he thought the child was beaten with slaps and punches. The girl suffered a skull fracture and her eyes and ears bled and her brain swelled.

Dr. Schlievert said Gracie suffered numerous severe injuries. He said her head injuries indicated that Gracie was grabbed by the arms and shaken violently back and forth. Her head struck or was struck with something at least six times. He testified that they were injuries that could not have been caused by falling down the steps, as the defense claims.

"I don't see any reason to believe that," Dr. Schlievert said. "There was direct facial trauma, similar to blows to the face. There was severe direct trauma to the body. We don't see these injuries in falls."

On Wednesday, the trial will continue with the jury visiting the house in the 800 block of Hubble St. where Gracie died.

The trial is being held before Monroe County Circuit Judge Joseph A. Costello Jr. The jury is expected to begin deliberations Thursday or Friday.

ClickOnDetroit.com

New Leads In Months-Old Unsolved Murder Case

POSTED: 5:07 pm EST November 15, 2006

UPDATED: 6:05 pm EST November 15, 2006

The mother of 7-year-old Raven Jeffries said she believes she knows who murdered her daughter.

Jeffries vanished from her southwest Detroit neighborhood more than four months ago, and her badly burned body was discovered days later, Local 4 reported.

Local 4 has learned that at least 30 people have been questioned and the suspect list is narrowing down on a local man. Those interviewed lived in Detroit, Taylor and Lincoln Park.

Police said new DNA evidence may soon help them solve the case.

Family members would not name names, but police said the neighborhood where the family lives is riddled with drugs and dealers. Police said the killer is likely suffering from severe mental problems.

The family erected a holiday memorial in Jeffries' honor on Wednesday. Jeffries' mother also created a [memorial Web site](#) where people can log in and leave tips.

If anyone has any information, they are being asked to call a tipline at 734-942-6879.

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Video: New Leads In Raven Jeffries Murder Case

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November 16, 2006

Old tape leads to sex charge

Graphic 8-year-old video shows attack on girl, 11

Mike Martindale / The Detroit News

BERKLEY -- In what a detective said was the worst example of child abuse he has ever seen, a Farmington Hills man was arraigned Wednesday in a case that unfolded when a long-hidden and graphic videotape surfaced.

Police said they are concerned that the defendant, Richard Raymond Gerard, 46, may have also had contact with other children. Berkley Police Chief Richard Eshman said investigators will contact Gerard's ex-wives and others.

"We have information that he has been involved in youth recreational sports in Macomb and Oakland County over the past 15 years," said Eshman.

The charges against Gerard came after one of his ex-wives -- he has been married five times -- earlier this week came to police with a dusty home videotape marked "wedding" that she found stashed away in her basement with some of her ex-husband's belongings. Police declined to release her name.

The tape was 8 years old, and instead of a record of a wedding, it contained very graphic sex acts involving her ex-husband and a sleeping girl, believed to be about 11 years old, police said. They said she is the daughter of one of Gerard's ex-girlfriends.

With a lead from the ex-wife's son, police quickly identified the girl -- who is now 19 years old -- and Gerard stood mute Wednesday before Berkley 45A District Court Magistrate Michael Zychowski on nine counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, punishable by up to life in prison; two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct (sexual contact with a minor); and child sexual abusive activity, concerning the creation of the videotape, which carries a 20-year penalty.

"... In my 35 years as a police officer this is the worst (child abuse) I've ever seen," Berkley Detective Sgt. Ray Anger told Zychowski while requesting a \$1 million bond for Gerard.

When Gerard, head bowed, mumbled that the bond seemed too high. Zychowski raised it to \$2 million and set a preliminary exam for Friday.

Officials in Farmington Hills and Berkley said they are trying to determine if Gerard may have had contact with other children.

"We're concerned that because of his lifestyle -- he's been married five times and has had several girlfriends over the years -- there could be other victims out there," said Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer. "We're going over the materials seized from his home to see whether we have a serial predator."

Gerard was last employed as a loan officer in Southgate and has no criminal history except a misdemeanor credit card conviction in Royal Oak.

The alleged victim is the daughter of one of Gerard's former girlfriends for whom he often baby-sat when her mother was away at work. The recorded incidents are believed to have occurred on several occasions between 1998 and 2000.

Dwyer said police executed a search warrant Tuesday night at Gerard's address and for his GMC Envoy at the Crosswinds Condominiums at Haggerty and 14 Mile, seizing videotapes, photographs and a laptop computer. Dwyer said the initial alleged victim was identified with the help of a son of the ex-wife who turned in the videotape to police.

"The son thought he knew who the girl was, and we followed up and had both her and her mother come in for an interview," said Dwyer.

"The girl said she was supplied drugs and alcohol by our suspect but never reported the incidents."

You can reach Mike Martindale at (248) 647-7226 or mmartindale@detnews.com.

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Man accused of sex assault turns himself in

Charged with fondling 8-year-old stepdaughter

Daily Tribune Staff Writer

The man, 43, is accused of fondling the girl, now 8, on several occasions, authorities say.

The case came to light shortly after the girl's mother saw the man coming out of her young daughter's bedroom and became suspicious, said Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Elisa Ramuno.

"He disclosed what happened to a therapist," Ramuno said. "Then at the urging of his therapist he reported himself. I've never heard of that happening before."

The Daily Tribune is not naming the suspect to protect the girl's identity.

Ramuno said the girl was interviewed by Child Protective Services after the man reported himself and she confirmed that sexual abuse had occurred.

The man is free after posting 10 percent of a \$50,000 bond.

He was arraigned Oct. 13 in Berkley 45A District Court on three counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct.

Each count is punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

The girl's stepfather is accused of assaulting the girl three times between September 2005 and 2006.

He was back in Berkley District Court Tuesday for a preliminary examination where prosecutors were prepared to present evidence with testimony.

However, the man waived his right to a preliminary hearing and Berkley District Judge William Sauer ordered him to stand trial on the charges in Oakland County Circuit Court. The man is set to be arraigned in circuit court next week for trial.

Contact Michael P. McConnell at mike.mcconnell@dailytribune.com or at 248-591-2571.

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Police: Plot foiled

Two charged with soliciting murder

By JOHN PEPIN, Journal Munising Bureau

NEWBERRY — Court dates have been set for a Petoskey couple charged with soliciting the murder of an officer at the Newberry Correctional Facility.

Tammy Jo Williams, 40, and Robert Paul Dalgliesh, 43, were arrested last Thursday and are each currently being held on a \$1 million bond at the Chippewa County Jail in Sault Ste. Marie. They face up to life in prison if convicted.

Williams is set to appear in 92nd District Court in Newberry at 11:30 a.m. Thursday and Dalgliesh will have his preliminary examination in the case at 1:30 p.m. Monday.

Police said the couple allegedly plotted to kill Williams' estranged husband so Williams could benefit financially from his death. Williams and Dalgliesh, both former Newberry residents, were living together in Petoskey with Dalgliesh's children.

Both suspects wanted the killing to have occurred before Williams divorce proceedings could be finalized, according to Michigan Department of Corrections Spokesman Russ Marlan in Lansing.

"They both wanted this other person out of the picture," Marlan said. "Particularly, at work, so they would inherit payments from the state."

Dalgliesh, who owns a business that delivers packages for Federal Express, spoke to a prison trusty working in a warehouse at the prison, while he was making a delivery there.

"His job caused him to enter our facility where he was able to have contact with inmates," Marlan said.

Dalgliesh reportedly used candy as a gift to a trusty to gain his confidence before offering money to have the killing done. Instead, the inmate informed corrections officials who contacted state police.

An investigation was begun in mid-September, with Dalgliesh reportedly soliciting two different trustys on four different occasions to try to broker the killing.

Prison officials, who are withholding the identity of the corrections officer for his safety, took precautions to ensure he would be in no danger during the police investigation, which included undercover work.

Dalgliesh was arrested after the fourth solicitation attempt was made last week. He was taken into custody by Michigan State Police Trooper Stephen Derusha from the Newberry post. Sgt. Randy Graham and MDOC Officer Greg Schultz investigated the incident.

Williams was arrested in Petoskey late last Thursday with Michigan Department of Human Services workers present to protect the Dalgliesh children. Both Williams and Dalgliesh were arraigned in district court in Newberry late last week.

Luce County Prosecutor Peter Tazelaar praised investigators in the case.



WILLIAMS



DALGLIESH

Michigan Gets \$1.2 M In Omnicare Settlement

MIRS, Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Attorney General Mike [COX](#) announced today Michigan would receive \$1.2 million as part of a 42-state, \$49.5 million settlement with Covington, Ken.-based Omnicare, Inc.

The settlement is roughly two times the amount Michigan overpaid as a result of Omnicare's therapeutic interchange program. The settlement is unrelated to a separate \$52.5 million Medicaid fraud settlement that Cox's office reached with Omnicare earlier this year.

"This is a significant recovery for our Medicaid program," Cox said. "My office is committed to making sure that Medicaid funds are not abused and that companies who take advantage of the Medicaid program are held accountable."

The agreement with Omnicare, a long-term care pharmacy that conducts business in 47 states, resolves allegations that the company violated various state and federal statutes and regulations by improperly switching both dosage strengths and forms of certain medications used by Medicaid patients.

From 2000 through 2005, employing a therapeutic interchange program, Omnicare aggressively switched patients from brand-name drugs to generic drugs, and also switched various forms and strengths of the drugs provided to patients.

One purpose of the therapeutic interchange program was to lower costs for third-party payers, including Medicaid. As a result of some of these changes, Medicaid programs from Michigan and other states actually ended up paying more for certain drugs, thereby increasing Omnicare's profits.

According to AG officials, Omnicare made these changes without the consent of patients or their physicians and, in doing so, violated state pharmaceutical dispensing statutes and regulations, as well as Medicaid's definitions of "medical necessity."

As part of the settlement, Omnicare will enter a Corporate Integrity Agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Inspector General. The agreement is to include provisions that Omnicare may not switch dosage or strength forms of any medication if the result would be an increase in cost to third-party payers, including Medicaid.

"It was handled professionally and promptly by police and corrections officials," Tazelaar said.

Marlan said this incident is likely the first of its kind he's aware of taking place in a Michigan prison.

"It's pretty bizarre and pretty unique," Marlan said. "It's bizarre that a Fed Ex driver would solicit inmates to kill a corrections officer so his girlfriend could benefit from the state. As much as it is bizarre, it's sad and sick as well."



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Published November 16, 2006

Teen gets 40-60 years in slaying

Marcus Matthews stabbed 69-year-old, set fire to house

By Hannah Northey
Lansing State Journal

What's next

- Marcus Matthews was sentenced Wednesday for killing Sara Mares, 69, of Lansing, in December.
- He will serve 40 years to 60 years in a Michigan prison.

A Lansing teen will serve at least 40 years for the "senseless" stabbing of a 69-year-old woman and setting her house on fire to cover up the crime.

Marcus Matthews, 17, pleaded guilty in October to second-degree murder in the death of Sara Mares, a woman known for her generosity and community service.

"It was a senseless crime," Ingham County Circuit Judge Beverley Nettles-Nickerson told Matthews on Wednesday as she sentenced him to 40 to 60 years in prison. Matthews, who was 16 at the time, also was convicted of arson and stealing Mares' car.

"The victim would have given you what you wanted just to help you, like she's helped so many other people," Nettles-Nickerson said.

Mares tutored immigrants in English, raised money for Lansing's libraries and worked part time for a public policy organization.

Addressing the court Wednesday, Matthews - a former Everett High School student - asked Mares' family for forgiveness and blamed his actions on a difficult childhood.

"I can't say I understand how it feels to lose someone I'm close to," Matthews said. "I can understand if they don't forgive me for what I've done."

Mares' son, Henry Harris, who lives in North Carolina, said that he hopes Matthews finds God while in prison.

"My heart goes out to his family," said Harris by phone Wednesday. "Ultimately, his only hope is in Jesus."

Mares' body was found in December 2005 in her bedroom after firefighters responded to a fire at her north Lansing home.

There were several stab wounds to her back.

Police took Matthews into custody hours later after searching for Mares' car.

The teen pleaded guilty in October after Nettles-Nickerson ruled a confession he gave to police

could be used during his trial. He had been facing a felony murder charge that carried a life sentence.

"It's fair in the sense that it's not life," Paul A. Toman, Matthews' court-appointed attorney, said Wednesday about the sentence. "If we would have gone to trial, I'm confident we would have lost."

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[From Lansing State Journal]

Thursday's letters to the editor

Welcome Challenge

Anyone who thinks Teen Challenge is going to bring down property values should take a ride past the facility they restored on west Willow next to the Board of Water and Light.

It was an eyesore. Now it is an attractive, well-maintained building; restored, painted and landscaped. With a strict discipline and an exemplary moral code, Teen Challenge does good work wherever they go. The community should welcome them.

Dr. Chris Miller
Lansing



KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

Sheets pleadsto spouse abuse

Thursday, November 16, 2006

By Lynn Turner

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A former Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety deputy chief pleaded guilty Wednesday to domestic violence but will have the misdemeanor charge dismissed if he successfully completes probation.

George Sheets is to serve three months of probation and paid \$275 in court fines and costs, said Carrie Klein, chief assistant prosecuting attorney for Kalamazoo County.

Kalamazoo County Sheriff's deputies were called Oct. 20 to the Sheets' residence in Oshtemo Township and found ``probable cause to believe that the offense of domestic violence had occurred," Sheriff Mike Anderson said at the time. Angela Vanek-Sheets told the Kalamazoo Gazette days after the incident, however, that ``the whole situation has been blown out of proportion."

Neither Sheets, his wife, who is the alleged victim of the assault, nor his attorney could be reached for comment after his plea.

The plea is under the state ``Spouse Abuse Act," which allows those charged with domestic violence who are in a continuing relationship with the alleged victim to have a conviction deferred while they serve probation. If Sheets successfully completes terms of his probation, the charge will be dismissed and there will be no public record of the case.

Probation conditions require that Sheets, 43, get counseling and not engage in assaultive behavior toward anyone. They also allow him to move to Wisconsin to accept a new job, according to court records.

The City Commission in July approved paying Sheets up to \$125,000 to end a wrongful-discharge and discrimination lawsuit he filed stemming from his April 2005 firing.

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Man who threatened girlfriend faces charges

POLICE BLOTTER

VIENNA TOWNSHIP

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Thursday, November 16, 2006

By Kim Crawford

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A 31-year-old man who pointed a gun at his girlfriend early Wednesday and then refused to surrender to police has been charged with assault with intent to murder and domestic violence.

Torrey J. Geffers was arrested and taken to the Genesee County Jail after he finally surrendered.

He faces arraignment today in Genesee County Central District Court.

County Undersheriff James S. Gage said deputies were called about a domestic violence report at 14574 N. Saginaw St., between Lake and Willard roads, in Vienna Township about 1 a.m. Wednesday.

When deputies arrived, Geffers' girlfriend, who had gotten out of the house with her 6-week-old child, told them he had pointed a gun at her and threatened her with a knife. Officers could see the suspect inside with a long gun, but he refused to come out, Gage said.

The county's containment team and a negotiator were dispatched to seal off the property and to communicate with Geffers. State police Emergency Support Team members arrived at the scene.

Geffers surrendered to police at 10 a.m.

- Kim Crawford

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Grant to be awarded

Thursday, November 16, 2006

HOLLAND -- Marianne Udow, the state's Human Services director, on Friday will present a \$160,000 grant from the Early Childhood Investment Corp. to Ottawa County's Great Start Collaborative. The presentation will run from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Careerline Tech Center, on Port Sheldon Road at U.S. 31. The collaborative's objective is to bring together public, private and nonprofit sectors in a sustained focus on early childhood development. Other speakers at the event will include Judy Samelson, ECIC chief executive officer; Karen McPhee, superintendent of the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District; and Jeanette Hoyer, chairwoman of Ottawa County's Great Start Collaborative.

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Article published Nov 16, 2006

SNAPSHOTS

A second chance

John Grap

The Enquirer

Look into the face of Gregg Phillips and you see a man who has lived seemingly several lifetimes, many more than just his 46 years.

With the help of a local program, the look in his eyes also reflects the new life he is painting for himself every day.

Phillips will graduate Friday from The Haven's Life Recovery Program during a ceremony at First United Methodist Church. Others graduating are Thomas Jackson, Terry Mead, Fred Riehl, Phillip Sango and Bryan Tutewiler.

A year ago, 14 homeless men with substance-abuse issues entered the program. One guy lasted three days, another a week. One's in prison, another moved to Florida. Two more are trying to get back into the program.

The program, which lasts a year, is designed to help homeless men overcome addictions and find permanent employment and housing through an intensive combination of individual and group therapy. Life-skills training, including literacy, budgeting, vocational training and spirituality are built into the program.

Going back to using alcohol or drugs, fighting or stealing gets a participant kicked out. It's a very tough program to complete.

Phillips was born in Cleveland, Ohio, where he spent two year years in a juvenile home before being adopted and moving to Battle Creek.

As a child, Phillips said he was physically, sexually and emotionally abused. To try to hide the pain, he turned to drugs at an early age. He remembers receiving a bag of marijuana from a family member for his 18th birthday. He remembers sitting around naked, passing around pipes, just like other people did during the "hippie" days.

From there he moved on to LSD, he said, and later to "speedballs," a very addictive mix of heroin and cocaine.

Until participating in the program, he didn't speak about his past.

"There were a lot crying days, man, a lot of trying, real emotional days. I packed my stuff a couple different times to leave (the program) here because it gets so intense. But that's what I'd been doing my whole life — running and avoiding from my problems," he said.

Phillips says he is still working at forgiving people, but the program has helped him realize how truly blessed he's been throughout his life. For all he has been through, that's saying a lot.

John Grap can be reached at 966-0598 or jgrap@battlecr.gannett.com.

Sunset Could Throw Wrench In Welfare

MIRS, Wednesday, November 15, 2006

If the Legislature doesn't extend a welfare provisions bill that deals with Work First exemptions, as many as 25,000 people, including women with young children, would have to find a job if they wanted to stay on public assistance come January.

The issue deals with an exemptions sunset that would mess up the standing of many people on welfare. If the sunset happens on Dec. 31, those who are exempt from Work First requirements would be bumped off and those who have to abide by work requirements, could collect welfare without working. Expiration of the sunset would flip those who have to work and those who don't.

This sunset expiration is nothing new and it's been renewed by the Legislature before. Sen. Bill [HARDIMAN](#) (R-Grand Rapids) recently introduced a bill that would extend this sunset for another six months. Last time the sunset was extended it was extended for a year.

The sunset was originally put into place so the Legislature could review the exemptions on a yearly basis. The intent was to get people talking about welfare on a yearly basis with the hope that if changes needed to be made, they would be made in a timely manner.

The Hardiman bill ([SB 1500](#)) is set to expire in six months to help facilitate the welfare reform discussion. But as of right now, it's unclear as to what the reform will look like, especially now that the Democrats will be in charge of the House come January.

Twice the Republican-controlled Legislature passed legislation that put a 48-month lifetime limit on welfare benefits. Twice the governor vetoed it.

Senate Majority Leader Ken [SIKKEMA](#) (R-Wyoming) and House Speaker Craig [DeROCHE](#) (R-Novi) recently said they want to address welfare during lame duck. It's doubtful that the two will get anything new through. It's starting to look as though, "getting something done" will mean passing a sunset that's been passed before.

Hardiman has another bill [SB 1501](#), that kind of leaves the welfare reform window wide open. [SB 1501](#) is a vehicle for welfare discussion, not a bill to be considered as the answer to welfare reform. [SB 1501](#) simply says that the state should look over Work First participation requirements.

Even Hardiman isn't sure where welfare limits are headed because he doesn't know who the point-person on welfare will be in the House next session when committee chairs get turned over to the Dems.

Term limits set for citizens serving on county committees

BY ELIZABETH COUNCIL

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Ottawa County commissioners Tuesday approved term limits of 12 years for citizen appointees to public boards and commissions.

The new resolution does not include county commissioners or other officials appointed by state law, local ordinance, or board policy.

The recommendation to the board came from the Personnel Committee, chaired by Spring Lake Commissioner Jane Ruiter.

Ruiter said the purpose of the change is to give other members in the community a chance to serve.

Not every commissioner agreed with the idea to limit years of service. The motion passed with a narrow 6-4 vote.

Commissioner Cornelius Vander Kam said, "Personally, this is one of the silliest motions to come before this board."

He said limiting service means losing experienced and dedicated appointees.

Commissioner Philip Kuyers suggested leaving citizen appointees on boards as is, and suggested the board remove appointees when they have not been successful in their position. "The duty of the commission is to remove someone from the board if they're not doing their job," he said.

Commissioner Gordon Schrotenboer, agreed with Kuyers and suggested "grandfathering" current appointees for consideration for reappointment to one additional term, but that motion was defeated 6-4.

If affected by term limits, citizen appointees will be eligible to reapply for a board position after having been off the board a minimum of two years.

The county currently has 130 citizen appointees, with 12 having served at least 12 years or more. Affected boards include the county's Appeals Board for Sanitary Code, the Department of Human Services Board, Road Commission, Board of Canvassers, Community Action Agency Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Commission, Community Corrections Advisory Board, Community Mental Health, Remonumentation Committee, and the Workforce Development Board.

The average length of service is five years.